

Sent Sept. 1, 2009

Dear Hollywood SAG Member:

Are YOU back to Work yet?

As promised by Ken Howard, the U4S slate, Tom Hanks, Sally Field and others, by approving the 2009 TV/Theatrical contract, SAG members would be "Back to Work." How's that working for you?

Here are some real facts:

-Under MembershipFirst's leadership, members received their residual checks within 21 days. Currently under U4S slim majority it now takes up to 75 DAYS to receive a residual check.

-Under MembershipFirst's leadership, SAG secured a 91% strike authorization for the Basic Cable Negotiations and successfully achieved increases in the residual formula for the first time in 17 years. Not one member of U4S was on the negotiating committee.

-Under NED Doug Allen and President Alan Rosenberg leadership, SAG secured over 1000 SAG New Media deals which included union protections, residuals and P & H contributions. And over 600 Feature Film Completion deals.

- A successfully negotiated 2009 Commercial Contract co- chaired by M1st's Paul Napier and with NO UFS members on the SAG Hollywood Commercial Negotiating Committee.

- Successfully negotiated the 2009 Animation Contract, protecting pay for individual sessions, nationally chaired by MembershipFirst's David Jolliffe.

Whose To Blame For the Slow down in SAG work in L.A?

- The world was/is experiencing The Worst economic down-turn since the Great Depression. And prior to 7/09, Tax incentives were sprouting up everywhere except in L.A.

"Our recent television production figures have been all over the map due to last year's work stoppage (WGA Strike)..." "The advertising sector has been hard hit by the economy, and feature films are consistently shot in incentive-generous locales outside of California." FilmL.A. President Paul Audley. July 22, 2009

- The AMPTP was not willing to budge from the deals they made with the WGA, DGA, IASTE and AFTRA. It takes two to tango.

-NBC's "Jay Leno Show" eliminated 5 hours a week of scripted entertainment.

-AFTRA offers more employer-friendly contracts. Especially in Basic Cable.

-Let's Talk About SAG Deficits:

- SAG operated with a Deficit in: 1998 & 1999 (Under President Masur and 1st VP and

Finance committee member Amy Aquino's watch "We are running at a substantial deficit" Richard Masur Dec 1998), 2000 (President Daniels) 2002 & 2003(President Gilbert)

-When Doug Allen was hired in 2007, SAG had \$6 million in reserve. When U4S fired him, SAG had over \$23 million in surplus. (The January 2009 firing of Doug Allen and hiring of Interim NED David White cost SAG members over \$1 Million Dollars)

-SAG Lawsuit Expenses:

Under former President Melissa Gilbert: Wilson/Bower vs. Pisano Lawsuit. (A suit the Guild was under no obligation to defend) Cost: \$439,464.77. (figure does not include partial reimbursement to plaintiffs attorneys). Screen Actors Guild vs. Voulitch. Cost: \$489,180.99. (figure does not include confidential settlement).

-Ken Howard, Amy Aquino, Tom Hanks, Sally Field and the U4S slate said the 2009 TV/Theatrical Contract, "is a great deal." "Ground breaking." Well this is the great deal delivered to the membership by Ken Howard, Amy Aquino and U4S:

-No residuals for Original Product Made for New Media with budgets \$25,000.00 per minute or less.

-No residuals for pre-1971 movies and pre-1974 television shows re-run in New Media

-No automatic union coverage or pay for Original Products Made For New Media \$15,000.00 per minute or less. (examples; 8/25/09 SAG New Media Pilot "The Gallery" NO PAY. Food/copy/credit will be provided.)

-And on May 24, 2009 U4S sent a fear filled message in a SAG sanctioned email, "Don't be tricked....." "some members are trying to take our union down."

-During the 2008 negotiations, a leading AMPTP executive suggested that a U4S/USAN negotiating committee member might be more comfortable "sitting on the AMPTP's side of the table" after reading his press releases and statements in the media criticizing Doug Allen and the SAG Hollywood Negotiating Committee.

We don't blame the membership for its vote. SAG used its machinery to "sell" the contract with fear tactics and promises. And it worked.

Let's talk about "Merger" and "Leverage":

As AFTRA President Roberta Reardon exclaimed at the AFTRA 2009 Convention, "It's all of us or none of us." Bigger doesn't necessarily mean better. If merged into one gigantic union, there would be the SAME amount of actors as there are now. But would broadcaster and disc jockeys walk off their jobs for better residuals for actors in New Media or improvements for Background performers? Are SAG members willing to merge our pension and health plans with AFTRA's? Even though SAG's pension accrual rate is twice that of AFTRA's and AFTRA's quarterly premiums payments for health coverage is significantly more expensive than SAG's? Something would have to give at the expense of SAG members.

- "We (AFL-CIO) are not going to force them to do anything that they don't want to do." AFL-CIO Pres. John Sweeney SAG-AFTRA Loses Merger Backer, Daily Variety August 20, 2009.

-Leadership and Dedication:

-U4S Ken Howard has attended 5 out of 19 Board meetings. Anne-Marie Johnson has a 100% attendance record for the same period.

-MembershipFirst has a plan. Not just platitudes on a big colorful shinny mailer.

-Vote For The Entire MembershipFirst Slate: Anne-Marie Johnson for SAG President, Connie Stevens for SAG Secretary-Treasurer and our 33 board candidates

For a Voters Guide and more information log onto www.membershipfirst.com